

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. The following remarks are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claim priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 17, 21 and 24-28 to remove the word “linked” and insert the phrase “communicated through a network.” Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 16, line 23 through page 17, line 7. It is asserted that in light of the Decision on Appeal the phrase “linked” is functional language and as such does not limit the underlying operations of the claims. Applicants assert that the language “communicated through a network”, overcomes this issue. Further it is asserted that the references of record do not teach this element.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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